

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-0934V

UNPUBLISHED

BRIDGETT RUNKLES,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: April 8, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Hepatitis A/B Vaccine; Influenza (Flu)  
Vaccine; Shoulder Injury Related to  
Vaccine Administration (SIRVA)

*John Robert Howie, Howie Law, PC, Dallas, TX, for petitioner.*

*Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On June 27, 2019, Bridgett Runkles filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) which meets the Table definition for SIRVA after receiving hepatitis A/B and influenza vaccines on September 12, 2017. Petition at 1, ¶¶ 1, 42. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On September 15, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On April 8, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$75,000.00. Proffer at 1. The Proffer does not indicate the exact types of compensation comprising this award. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$75,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

On September 15, 2020, respondent, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, filed his Rule 4(c) Report conceding entitlement to compensation in this matter alleging a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”). The following day, the Court entered its Ruling on Entitlement, finding petitioner Bridgett Runkles entitled to Vaccine Act compensation. Respondent now proffers that petitioner receive a compensation award consisting of a lump sum of **\$75,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Bridgett Runkles.<sup>1</sup> This amount represents compensation for all elements of compensation under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)** to which petitioner is entitled.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Petitioner is a competent adult. No guardianship is required.

<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

<sup>3</sup> This proffer does not include any award for attorneys' fees and costs that may be awarded pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 8, 2021